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# THE *Poultry and Egg* SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-141

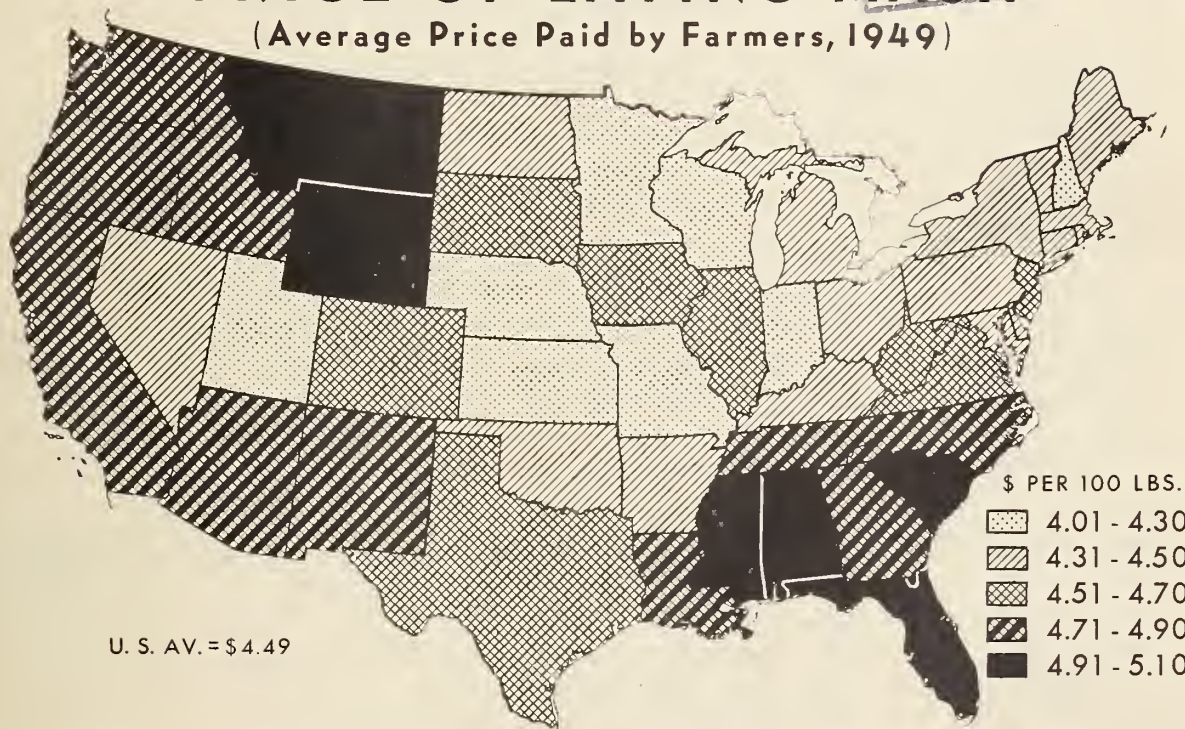
BAE

JANUARY 1950

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FEB 6 - 1950

## PRICE OF LAYING MASH (Average Price Paid by Farmers, 1949)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 47492-XX

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Several factors contribute to the difference from State to State in the average price paid by farmers for laying mash. In general, prices tend to be lowest in the States closest to the areas where laying mash ingredients originate. The general structure of rail freight rates is such that the cost of moving animal feed ingredients from central Illinois to central New Jersey is about 76 cents per cwt., or to Tallahassee,

Florida about \$1.05 per cwt. The freight charge from Omaha, Nebraska to Pacific Coast points is about \$1.02 per cwt. Two other considerations which are reflected in the prices farmers pay may partly offset each other; they are (a) the typical grade and mix of the mash bought, and (b) the efficiency and volume of the distribution agencies.

## The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

| Item                                                                                          | Unit          | Month | Average<br>1938-47 | 1948  | 1949  | Month       | Average<br>1938-47 | 1948  | 1949  | Comments on current situation            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Eggs</b>                                                                                   |               |       |                    |       |       |             |                    |       |       |                                          |
| Farm production .....                                                                         | Mil. doz.     | Nov.  | 215.3              | 288.0 | 320.9 | Dec.        | 250.2              | 334.0 | 374.9 | Record high for the month.               |
| Average number of layers on farms                                                             | Million       | do.   | 358.5              | 364.7 | 378.9 | do.         | 381.1              | 376.4 | 398.1 |                                          |
| Rate of lay per hen .....                                                                     | Number        | do.   | 7.1                | 9.5   | 10.2  | do.         | 7.8                | 10.6  | 11.3  |                                          |
| Apparent civilian per capita<br>disappearance .....                                           | do.           | Oct.  | 26.7               | 30.5  | 29.2  | Nov.        | 25.0               | 29.5  | 29.7  |                                          |
| Frozen egg production .....                                                                   | Mil. lb.      | Nov.  | ---                | 0.9   | 3.7   | Dec.        | ---                | 0.9   |       |                                          |
| Dried egg production .....                                                                    | do.           | do.   | ---                | 0.9   | 1.2   | do.         | ---                | 0.6   |       |                                          |
| Price received by farmers .....                                                               | Ct. per doz.  | do.   | 39.4               | 58.3  | 47.1  | do.         | 39.2               | 52.8  | 40.5  | Lowest for the month since 1942.         |
| Price received by farmers as a<br>percentage of parity .....                                  | Percent       | do.   | 85                 | 92    | 77    | do.         | 89                 | 82    | 66    |                                          |
| Retail price (BAE) .....                                                                      | Ct. per doz.  | Oct.  | 51.1               | 76.6  | 72.6  | Nov.        | 51.4               | 78.2  | 65.3  |                                          |
| Egg-feed price ratio .....                                                                    | Lb. feed      | Nov.  | 16.0               | 16.2  | 14.2  | Dec.        | 15.5               | 14.6  | 12.0  |                                          |
| Stocks: 1/                                                                                    |               |       |                    |       |       |             |                    |       |       |                                          |
| Shell .....                                                                                   | 1,000 cases   | do.   | 1350               | 444   | 250   | do.         | 443                | 159   | 97    | ) Seasonally low.                        |
| Frozen .....                                                                                  | do.           | do.   | 3624               | 3715  | 1935  | do.         | 2734               | 3685  | 2798  |                                          |
| Dried .....                                                                                   | Mil. lb.      | do.   | ---                | 24.4  | 68.7  | do.         | ---                | 25.2  | 70.1  |                                          |
| Chicks hatched by commercial<br>hatcheries .....                                              | Million       | Nov.  | 30.5               | 58.0  | 57.6  | Dec.        | 28.5               | 55.0  | 55.0  |                                          |
| Potential layers on farms 1/ .....                                                            | do.           | do.   | 461.8              | 431.4 | 452.9 | do. 2/440.1 | 413.2              | 439.1 |       | 6 percent larger than a year<br>earlier. |
| Hens and pullets of laying age ...                                                            | do.           | do.   | 372.8              | 372.4 | 391.0 | do.         | 389.4              | 380.5 | 405.2 |                                          |
| Pullets not of laying age .....                                                               | do.           | do.   | 89.0               | 59.0  | 61.9  | do.         | 50.7               | 32.7  | 33.9  |                                          |
| Farm price of poultry ration .....                                                            | Dol. per cwt. | do.   | 2.59               | 3.59  | 3.31  | do.         | 2.62               | 3.62  | 3.38  |                                          |
| <b>Poultry</b>                                                                                |               |       |                    |       |       |             |                    |       |       |                                          |
| Price received by farmers for<br>chickens .....                                               | Ct. per lb.   | Nov.  | 19.9               | 29.3  | 23.1  | Dec.        | 20.0               | 30.7  | 22.3  |                                          |
| Price received by farmers as a<br>percentage of parity .....                                  | Percent       | do.   | 106                | 104   | 85    | do.         | 106                | 109   | 81    |                                          |
| Retail price of chickens (BAE) ....                                                           | Ct. per lb.   | Oct.  | 40.8               | 59.3  | 51.4  | Nov.        | 40.6               | 59.7  | 50.5  |                                          |
| Price received by farmers for<br>turkeys .....                                                | do.           | Nov.  | 26.8               | 46.2  | 34.4  | Dec.        | 27.7               | 51.4  | 35.3  |                                          |
| Stocks: 1/                                                                                    |               |       |                    |       |       |             |                    |       |       |                                          |
| Poultry, excluding turkeys .....                                                              | Mil. lb.      | do.   | 167.8              | 124.9 | 160.1 | do.         | 175.7              | 110.2 | 164.9 | ) Much larger than prewar.               |
| Turkeys .....                                                                                 | do.           | do.   | 52.6               | 46.6  | 107.4 | do.         | 65.0               | 50.6  | 127.2 |                                          |
| Chicken-feed price ratio .....                                                                | Lb. feed      | do.   | 8.0                | 8.2   | 7.0   | do.         | 7.9                | 8.5   | 6.6   |                                          |
| Turkey-feed price ratio .....                                                                 | do.           | do.   | 10.6               | 12.8  | 10.4  | do.         | 10.8               | 14.3  | 10.4  |                                          |
| Average weekly receipts of poultry:<br>at Central Western Primary<br>Markets, per plant ..... | 1,000 lb.     | Nov.  | 32.4               | 20.1  | 27.2  | Dec.        | 20.8               | 13.4  | 16.8  |                                          |
| Average weekly placements<br>of chicks in 7 broiler areas                                     | Million       | do.   | ---                | 5.6   | 6.1   | do.         | ---                | 6.1   | 5.9   |                                          |

1/ End of the month.

2/ Average 1939-48.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board, January 18, 1950

## SUMMARY

Prices farmers will receive for eggs probably will average about one-sixth lower in 1950 than in 1949. Last year, egg prices were held up by Government purchases of 4 percent of the total annual output. As a result, annual average prices received by farmers for eggs declined less from 1948 to 1949 than prices for most other farm commodities. The USDA announced on December 21, 1949 that U. S. egg prices would be supported in 1950 so as to average at least 37 cents per dozen, annual average basis, equivalent to about 75 percent of the current parity. The actual average price received in 1949 was 45.5 cents per dozen. Dried egg is being purchased at a price intended to return an average of at least 25 cents per dozen to midwestern farmers who sell to drying plants. The corresponding price last year was 35 cents per dozen.

Chicken prices also have declined sharply from a year ago. No price support has been announced for chickens.

The year 1949 was one of record peacetime poultry and egg production. The abundant supplies were a factor in the low prices for which eggs, chickens, and turkeys were being sold at the year-end and in the first few weeks of 1950. In mid-December, producer prices of eggs and chickens were the lowest of any mid-month average for the year, and no significant increase occurred in the three or four weeks following. Turkey prices to producers in mid-December were 0.9 cents per pound higher than a month earlier, but 16.1 cents less than a year earlier. Wholesale turkey prices fell after it became apparent that the Christmas trade would be less than wholesalers' expectations, with the result that 11 million pounds were sold to the Government for price support in the last week of the year.

Egg production in each of the last 4 months of 1949 was a record for the month. Continued increases in the monthly rate of lay and slightly larger numbers of layers (6 percent more on January 1, 1950 than a year before) combined to provide a relatively large production in the months when eggs have in the past been scarce. The egg production on farms in December was 50 percent larger than the December average for 1938-47 and actually about equal the prewar average for May. Prospects are that egg production in the next few months will continue to exceed corresponding periods of a year earlier by at least the percentage that the monthly number of layers exceeds the year before.

Storage stocks of poultry meat, including turkey, were higher on January 1, than at any other time except during the 3 winters 1945-48. Broiler production during the next few months, on the scale indicated by the record of recent chick placements and eggs set in incubators, will be large enough to maintain adequate supplies of fresh chicken meat until marketings of farm chickens increase seasonally.

: The status of the Canadian egg and poultry industries has :  
 : been described in a release by the Office of Foreign :  
 : Agricultural Relations. It is available upon request from :  
 : that office, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. :

Table 1.- Eggs: Prices received by farmers, unadjusted, adjusted for seasonal variation, and as a percentage of parity, by months, 1935-49

| Year: | a. Prices received, per dozen                     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | Simple average |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
|       | Jan.                                              | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  |                |
|       | Cents                                             | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents          |
| 1935: | 25.0                                              | 25.6  | 18.6  | 20.0  | 21.4  | 21.0  | 21.7  | 22.7  | 26.4  | 27.9  | 30.1  | 28.7  | 24.1           |
| 1936: | 22.8                                              | 23.8  | 17.5  | 16.8  | 18.1  | 18.9  | 20.0  | 22.4  | 24.5  | 27.6  | 32.5  | 30.5  | 23.0           |
| 1937: | 23.1                                              | 20.1  | 19.9  | 20.1  | 17.9  | 17.6  | 19.4  | 20.4  | 22.9  | 25.2  | 28.0  | 26.0  | 21.7           |
| 1938: | 21.6                                              | 16.4  | 16.2  | 15.9  | 17.6  | 18.2  | 19.9  | 21.0  | 24.9  | 27.1  | 29.0  | 27.9  | 21.3           |
| 1939: | 18.8                                              | 16.7  | 16.0  | 15.5  | 15.2  | 14.9  | 16.5  | 17.5  | 20.6  | 22.9  | 25.8  | 20.5  | 18.4           |
| 1940: | 18.3                                              | 20.2  | 15.4  | 15.0  | 15.1  | 14.4  | 16.4  | 17.2  | 21.0  | 23.7  | 26.2  | 26.8  | 19.1           |
| 1941: | 19.7                                              | 16.8  | 16.4  | 19.7  | 20.1  | 23.2  | 25.6  | 26.8  | 30.3  | 31.8  | 35.5  | 34.1  | 25.0           |
| 1942: | 31.3                                              | 27.5  | 25.8  | 25.6  | 26.5  | 27.4  | 29.5  | 32.2  | 34.7  | 37.4  | 38.9  | 39.7  | 31.4           |
| 1943: | 39.0                                              | 34.2  | 34.0  | 33.7  | 34.2  | 35.2  | 36.3  | 38.8  | 41.6  | 45.2  | 37.1  | 44.9  | 38.7           |
| 1944: | 34.6                                              | 31.9  | 30.1  | 27.1  | 27.2  | 28.1  | 31.2  | 33.0  | 35.4  | 38.8  | 43.4  | 44.5  | 33.8           |
| 1945: | 41.0                                              | 35.8  | 33.1  | 33.0  | 33.7  | 35.8  | 37.9  | 40.8  | 39.6  | 42.6  | 47.1  | 48.2  | 39.0           |
| 1946: | 41.1                                              | 32.6  | 32.1  | 31.3  | 32.8  | 33.5  | 37.1  | 39.1  | 44.5  | 51.5  | 47.8  | 47.0  | 39.2           |
| 1947: | 41.3                                              | 38.6  | 40.1  | 40.8  | 40.7  | 41.5  | 45.7  | 47.5  | 53.0  | 55.3  | 53.4  | 58.7  | 46.4           |
| 1948: | 48.7                                              | 45.0  | 42.6  | 42.6  | 41.5  | 43.4  | 45.8  | 49.2  | 51.4  | 54.7  | 58.3  | 52.8  | 48.0           |
| 1949: | 47.1                                              | 41.8  | 41.2  | 42.3  | 43.4  | 44.1  | 45.3  | 48.8  | 52.5  | 51.4  | 47.1  | 40.5  | 45.5           |
| Year: | b. Prices received per dozen, seasonally adjusted |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | Simple average |
|       | Jan.                                              | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  |                |
|       | Cents                                             | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents          |
| 1935: | 22.9                                              | 27.5  | 23.2  | 25.6  | 27.8  | 27.3  | 25.8  | 24.4  | 24.2  | 22.5  | 21.2  | 21.4  |                |
| 1936: | 21.5                                              | 25.9  | 21.6  | 21.5  | 23.5  | 24.5  | 23.5  | 23.8  | 22.3  | 22.1  | 22.9  | 22.9  |                |
| 1937: | 22.2                                              | 22.1  | 24.6  | 25.4  | 22.9  | 22.6  | 22.6  | 21.5  | 20.6  | 20.2  | 19.9  | 19.8  |                |
| 1938: | 21.2                                              | 18.0  | 20.0  | 19.9  | 22.3  | 23.3  | 22.9  | 22.1  | 22.4  | 21.5  | 20.6  | 21.6  |                |
| 1939: | 18.8                                              | 18.6  | 19.8  | 19.4  | 19.2  | 18.9  | 18.8  | 18.2  | 18.4  | 18.2  | 18.3  | 16.0  |                |
| 1940: | 18.7                                              | 22.7  | 18.8  | 18.5  | 18.9  | 18.2  | 18.4  | 17.9  | 18.6  | 18.8  | 18.6  | 21.3  |                |
| 1941: | 20.5                                              | 19.1  | 20.0  | 24.0  | 24.8  | 29.4  | 28.4  | 27.6  | 26.8  | 25.0  | 25.2  | 27.5  |                |
| 1942: | 32.9                                              | 31.2  | 31.5  | 31.2  | 32.3  | 34.7  | 32.1  | 33.2  | 31.0  | 30.4  | 28.8  | 31.8  |                |
| 1943: | 39.4                                              | 38.9  | 42.0  | 41.1  | 41.7  | 41.9  | 39.0  | 39.6  | 37.1  | 37.4  | 36.0  | 36.5  |                |
| 1944: | 34.6                                              | 35.8  | 37.2  | 33.0  | 32.4  | 32.7  | 33.5  | 33.7  | 32.2  | 32.6  | 33.9  | 37.1  |                |
| 1945: | 40.6                                              | 38.9  | 39.4  | 39.3  | 39.6  | 41.6  | 40.3  | 41.6  | 36.7  | 36.7  | 37.7  | 39.2  |                |
| 1946: | 40.3                                              | 35.1  | 37.8  | 37.3  | 38.6  | 38.5  | 38.6  | 38.7  | 42.0  | 45.2  | 39.2  | 38.8  |                |
| 1947: | 39.7                                              | 42.9  | 47.2  | 48.0  | 47.3  | 46.1  | 48.6  | 47.0  | 50.0  | 47.7  | 44.5  | 48.9  |                |
| 1948: | 45.9                                              | 48.9  | 49.0  | 50.7  | 48.3  | 49.3  | 48.2  | 49.2  | 48.0  | 47.2  | 49.0  | 43.6  |                |
| 1949: | 45.3                                              | 45.9  | 46.8  | 49.8  | 50.5  | 50.1  | 47.2  | 48.3  | 49.1  | 44.3  | 39.6  | 34.0  |                |
| Year: | c. Prices as a percentage of parity               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | Simple average |
|       | Jan.                                              | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  |                |
|       | %                                                 | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %              |
| 1935: | 82                                                | 98    | 82    | 91    | 99    | 97    | 92    | 88    | 73    | 82    | 78    | 78    | 87             |
| 1936: | 79                                                | 96    | 80    | 80    | 87    | 92    | 86    | 85    | 80    | 79    | 82    | 81    | 84             |
| 1937: | 78                                                | 77    | 85    | 87    | 79    | 77    | 78    | 74    | 73    | 72    | 71    | 72    | 76             |
| 1938: | 76                                                | 65    | 73    | 72    | 81    | 85    | 84    | 82    | 84    | 81    | 77    | 81    | 79             |
| 1939: | 71                                                | 70    | 75    | 74    | 73    | 71    | 71    | 69    | 68    | 68    | 68    | 60    | 69             |
| 1940: | 69                                                | 85    | 69    | 69    | 70    | 68    | 69    | 67    | 69    | 70    | 69    | 79    | 71             |
| 1941: | 76                                                | 71    | 74    | 89    | 91    | 106   | 101   | 96    | 92    | 84    | 84    | 91    | 88             |
| 1942: | 107                                               | 100   | 99    | 98    | 100   | 108   | 100   | 103   | 95    | 92    | 88    | 95    | 98             |
| 1943: | 118                                               | 116   | 124   | 120   | 120   | 121   | 111   | 113   | 106   | 106   | 101   | 102   | 112            |
| 1944: | 96                                                | 99    | 103   | 92    | 89    | 89    | 92    | 92    | 89    | 90    | 93    | 100   | 94             |
| 1945: | 110                                               | 106   | 106   | 106   | 107   | 112   | 109   | 112   | 98    | 98    | 100   | 104   | 105            |
| 1946: | 106                                               | 92    | 98    | 96    | 97    | 96    | 91    | 90    | 98    | 102   | 86    | 85    | 94             |
| 1947: | 86                                                | 90    | 97    | 98    | 97    | 93    | 98    | 94    | 98    | 93    | 86    | 93    | 93             |
| 1948: | 85                                                | 92    | 92    | 95    | 90    | 91    | 89    | 91    | 89    | 88    | 92    | 82    | 90             |
| 1949: | 85                                                | 87    | 88    | 94    | 96    | 95    | 90    | 93    | 94    | 86    | 77    | 66    | 87             |

Egg Prices Lowest in Almost 3 Years  
Wholesale Markets and Country  
Points Both Decline

Egg prices in late December and early January were at relatively low levels. The mid-December farm price, 40.5 cents per dozen as a U. S. average, was lower even than any spring-month average reported for either 1949 or 1948. Previous monthly farm prices lower than the December figure are found only by going back as far as the early spring of 1947.

When adjusted for normal seasonal variation, the 1949 December price is even lower than the 1947 spring prices. Adjusted seasonally, levels as low as December 1949 have not been recorded since 1942.

Prices declined further from mid-December through the first 10 days of January, though some quotations were at their lowest levels in the third week of December. The movement of egg prices in wholesale markets and limited reports from country markets both indicate that the U. S. average price received by farmers for eggs will be lower in January than it was in December. These indications have resulted in a Department of Agriculture announcement that egg purchase operations would be undertaken to implement the 1950 egg price-support objective of 37 cents per dozen as U. S. annual average price to producers. 1/

The downward trend of egg prices in wholesale markets is indicated by the comparisons in table 2 page 6. The table also includes a price comparison for country markets in Iowa, where current reports are now issued semi-weekly by the State-Federal Market News Service.

The New York prices for nearby Whites on the January date given in table 2 are lower than any seasonally-comparable monthly average price since 1942. The Chicago price given in the table for the January date is about equal to the lowest monthly average price in the spring of 1944.

On some dates other than those to which table 2 applies there was a very wide price spread in New York between nearby white eggs, and nearby brown. The discount against the nearby brown was on some occasions so great as to make their price the same as the price of Midwestern brown eggs. This has been attributed to the heavy shipments of brown eggs from New England to New York and even to points in the mid-South. In December 1949, New York receipts of eggs from New England totaled 15,570 cases; in December 1948, the total was 2,079 cases.

High Egg Production Likely to  
Continue Through Winter

The large egg production of the last few months has been the result of both a high rate of lay per bird and the large number of layers in farm flocks. Even if there are moderate downward adjustments in both of these factors, monthly egg output will continue through the winter at a rate high relative to production in other recent years. By late summer or fall, however, output will decline to a level that may be no higher than in 1949, if the number of pullets available then as laying flock replacements is in accord with present expectations.

1/ The 1950 egg price-support program is described in another section of this Situation. See page 8.

Table 2.- Egg prices in representative wholesale markets and in Iowa country points, mid-December 1949, and mid-January 1950

| Market                                   | Grade and description             | December 1949 |           | January 1950 |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
|                                          |                                   | Date of       | Price per | Date of      | Price per |
|                                          |                                   | quotation     | dozen     | quotation    | dozen     |
|                                          |                                   |               | Cents     |              | Cents     |
| New York                                 | Midwestern                        | 15            |           | 17           |           |
|                                          | Extras 70 % A's, large            |               |           |              |           |
|                                          | Mixed colors                      |               | 40 1/2    |              | 34        |
|                                          | White                             |               | 42-42 1/2 |              | 34 1/2    |
|                                          | Brown                             |               | 41        |              | 34        |
|                                          | Nearby, fancy heavyweights        |               |           |              |           |
|                                          | White                             |               | 48        |              | 36-37     |
|                                          | Brown                             |               | 42        |              | 34        |
| Chicago                                  | Extras (60-70 A's) l.c.l.         | 15            | 36        | 17           | 32        |
| San Francisco                            | Grade A large<br>(consumer grade) | 15            | 47-47 1/2 | 13           | 45-46     |
| Iowa, country points;<br>producer prices | Current receipts                  | 16            | 26        | 13           | 25        |

Table 3.- Eggs: Prices per dozen to producers in Iowa (f.o.b. plant), at wholesale in Chicago, and at retail in Washington, D. C., weekly, September 1949 to date

| Date        | Top quality Iowa 1/ |        | Current receipts Iowa 1/ |        | Extras        | Retail prices, Grade A large in   |         |         |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
|             | Extreme             | Mostly | Extreme                  | Mostly | Chicago       | Washington, D. C. chain stores 3/ |         |         |
|             | range               |        | range                    |        | Less than     | Chain A                           | Chain B | Chain C |
|             | Cents               | Cents  | Cents                    | Cents  | carlots       | Cents                             | Cents   | Cents   |
|             |                     |        |                          |        | 2/            |                                   |         |         |
| 1949        |                     |        |                          |        |               |                                   |         |         |
| September 2 | 44-55               | 50-51  | 37-43                    | 39-41  | 56-58         |                                   |         | 77      |
| 9           | 47-56               | 50-53  | 37-45                    | 40-43  | 60-62         |                                   |         |         |
| 16          | 49-58               | 50-55  | 37-47                    | 42-45  | 62-63         |                                   |         |         |
| 23          | 49-58               | 50-54  | 41-46                    | 41-45  | 60-63         |                                   |         |         |
| 30          | 46-54               | 50     | 38-46                    | 40-41  | 58            |                                   |         |         |
| October 7   | 45-52               | 48-50  | 36-44                    | 39     | 55            |                                   |         |         |
| 14          | 43-53               | 48-51  | 36-44                    | 38-39  | 57-58         |                                   | 75      |         |
| 21          | 43-51               | 45-50  | 33-40                    | 38-39  | 57-58         | 63                                |         |         |
| 28          | 35-43               | 37-40  | 30-38                    | 35     | 47            |                                   |         |         |
| November 4  | 38-46               | 40-43  | 32-40                    | 35     | 52-54         |                                   |         |         |
| 11          | 38-46               | 40-44  | 32-39                    | 35     | 52-54         |                                   |         |         |
| 18          | 39-43               | 41-43  | 35-38                    | 36-37  | 52-54         | 75                                |         |         |
| 25          | 39-44               | 40-42  | 35-40                    | 35-37  | 47            |                                   | 70      |         |
| December 2  | 34-38               | 34-36  | 27-37                    | 30-32  | 43            | 59                                |         |         |
| 9           | 30-35               | 32-33  | 28-35                    | ---    | 40            | 53                                |         |         |
| 16          | 27-33               | 27-30  | 20-35                    | 26     | 33-34         |                                   | 55      |         |
| 23          | 22-29               | 24-27  | 20-35                    | 20-22  | 36            | 47                                |         |         |
| 30          | 25-32               | 26-28  | 22-35                    | 23-25  | 36            |                                   |         |         |
| 1950        |                     |        |                          |        |               |                                   |         |         |
| January 6   | 26-30               | 26-27  | 23-27                    | 25     | 34            |                                   |         | 53      |
| 13          | 25-30               | 25-27  | 22-28                    | 25     | 32 1/2-33 1/2 |                                   | 46      | 53      |

1/ Federal-State Market News Service.

2/ Urner-Barry Company.

3/ From ads in local newspapers.

The number of hens and pullets of laying age in farm flocks on January 1, 1950 was 405 million. This was 6 percent more than a year earlier, and the largest for the date since 1946. If the comparison with previous years is based on potential layers 1/, the January 1, 1950 numbers are likewise 6 percent larger than the year before, and again the largest since 1946. Compared with last year the increase in potential layers is largest in the North Atlantic region; there the percentage increase is almost double the percentage increase for the U. S. as a whole.

The number of birds in laying flocks can be reduced by culling. On a U. S. basis, death losses among layers are sufficiently stable to be ignored in projections of the size of the U. S. laying flock. However, the amount of culling varies. Heavy culling, if it were to occur, could noticeably reduce the size of the laying flock before July or August, the normal low months for numbers of layers.

The economic factors that ordinarily would encourage heavy culling are low egg prices, high feed prices, and high prices for hens. At their present levels, these factors do not combine to offer a clear-cut indication of whether culling will be light or very severe. Of these factors, only low egg prices point clearly to heavy culling. Even on this point, producers to some extent may consider current prices as a temporary phenomenon. Poultry ration prices are currently at about the low point of the past 2 1/2 years. Despite the relatively low level of feed costs, the December egg-feed price ratio (1 dozen eggs equaled the value of 12.0 pounds feed) equaled the lowest for the month since 1924, when records were begun on a U. S. average basis. Returns above feed costs, although also discouraging to the poultryman, probably provide a better comparison with the past than does a consideration of the egg-feed ratio. The increased rate of lay in the winter months, and the present high price level, make the poultryman's returns somewhat more favorable than would be indicated by a comparison of the December ratio with prewar December averages. Poultrymen's costs for items other than feed probably continue at a record or near-record high level. The final factor listed here, the level of prices for hens to be sold for meat, definitely discourages culling. The large storage holdings of poultry, and prospective large marketings of broilers from specialized producing areas, indicate no immediate upward movement of prices for hens.

On an annual basis, the rate of lay of egg-producing flocks in the U. S. has moved upward every year since 1940. On a monthly basis (compared with the highest corresponding month in the years before) only 34 of the last 108 months have failed to show an increased rate of lay. Of these 34 months none showed declines as great as 5 percent under the then-existing record. Some of these declines were associated with adverse weather. For December 1949, the average rate of lay was a new record for the month for the U. S. as well as for 38 individual States.

The extension of these indications regarding numbers of layers, net flock reduction through culling and deaths, and rate of lay, suggests that, unless there is a definite reversal of the indications based on January 1 data, egg production will continue large in the first few months of 1950. (See table 4.)

1/ Hens and pullets of laying age, plus pullets not of laying age.

Table 4.- Factors related to winter egg production, 1940 to date

| Year | : Hens :   |        | : Layers on farms as :       |      |      |      | : Rate of lay as a : |      |      |      | : Egg production on farms : |       |       |       |
|------|------------|--------|------------------------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|      | : and :    |        | : Pullets: a percentage of : |      |      |      | : percentage of :    |      |      |      | : Egg production on farms : |       |       |       |
|      | : pullets: |        | : not of :                   |      |      |      | : January 1940 :     |      |      |      | : January 1940 :            |       |       |       |
|      | of lay-    | laying | Pre-                         | :    | :    | :    | Pre-                 | :    | :    | :    | Pre-                        | :     | :     | :     |
|      | ing age:   | age    | ced-                         | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | ced-                 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | ced-                        | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  |
|      | Jan. 1     | Jan. 1 | ing                          | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | ing                  | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | ing                         | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  |
|      | :          | :      | Dec.                         | :    | :    | :    | Dec.                 | :    | :    | :    | Dec.                        | :     | :     | :     |
|      | Mil.       | Mil.   | Per-                         | Per- | Per- | Per- | Per-                 | Per- | Per- | Per- | Mil.                        | Mil.  | Mil.  | Mil.  |
|      | cent       | cent   | cent                         | cent | cent | cent | cent                 | cent | cent | cent | cases                       | cases | cases | cases |
| 1940 | 342        | 51     | 98                           | 100  | 98   | 95   | 93                   | 100  | 123  | 196  | 6.3                         | 6.9   | 8.4   | 12.9  |
| 1941 | 334        | 47     | 96                           | 98   | 96   | 93   | 93                   | 120  | 141  | 204  | 6.2                         | 8.1   | 9.3   | 13.1  |
| 1942 | 371        | 57     | 106                          | 109  | 107  | 105  | 101                  | 126  | 145  | 212  | 7.4                         | 9.5   | 10.8  | 15.4  |
| 1943 | 426        | 63     | 122                          | 125  | 124  | 122  | 102                  | 123  | 150  | 215  | 8.6                         | 10.6  | 12.8  | 18.1  |
| 1944 | 456        | 67     | 131                          | 134  | 132  | 130  | 103                  | 137  | 166  | 213  | 9.3                         | 12.6  | 15.2  | 19.2  |
| 1945 | 427        | 47     | 125                          | 125  | 122  | 118  | 112                  | 136  | 160  | 226  | 9.6                         | 11.7  | 13.5  | 18.5  |
| 1946 | 421        | 53     | 122                          | 123  | 122  | 118  | 114                  | 140  | 166  | 231  | 9.6                         | 11.9  | 14.0  | 18.9  |
| 1947 | 399        | 37     | 116                          | 116  | 114  | 111  | 131                  | 158  | 170  | 224  | 10.5                        | 12.7  | 13.3  | 17.1  |
| 1948 | 391        | 35     | 114                          | 114  | 112  | 108  | 131                  | 152  | 170  | 227  | 10.3                        | 12.0  | 13.1  | 16.9  |
| 1949 | 380        | 33     | 111                          | 111  | 108  | 105  | 145                  | 165  | 179  | 234  | 11.1                        | 12.7  | 13.4  | 17.0  |
| 1950 | 405        | 34     | 117                          |      |      |      | 154                  |      |      |      | 12.5                        |       |       |       |

As partial offsets to this prospective large production, consideration must be given to at least three factors which will serve to ease the price effects of the large supply. One of these is that the population of the United States in 1950 will be almost 2 percent larger than in 1949, so that an egg supply increased by a corresponding percentage could be absorbed at an unchanged per capita consumption of eggs. The next consideration is the fact that in the first half of the year per capita egg consumption is likely to increase over corresponding rates of 1949, because market prices will be lower. Finally, commercial storage of both shell and frozen eggs may absorb more of the springtime output of eggs in 1950 than was the case in 1949.

Egg Price Support Announced for 1950; Government  
Plans to Hold Annual Average Price at 37 Cents

The Department of Agriculture announced on December 21 that it would seek to maintain an annual average price to producers of 37 cents per dozen for eggs in 1950. A further announcement on December 30 stated that the Department would buy dried egg to accomplish this objective, making contracts with processors who paid producers at least 25 cents per dozen while working on the price support contracts in January and February.

The 1950 program differs from the 1949 procedure in that the 1950 objective is defined in terms of cents per dozen, while the goal of the 1949 program was expressed as 90 percent of parity as an annual average. Moreover, the basis for the computation of parity prices is different in the two years. The price levels which are the objectives of the two programs, and comparable figures, are given in table 5. For each of the years, the underlined figures represent the prices sought by the program, while the figures not underlined were not primary objectives of the program.

Table 5.- Egg price support objectives, 1949 and 1950, and comparisons with actual prices, 1949, U. S. annual average basis

| Year: | Objectives           |             | Midwest        |         | Prices received by farmers, |      |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|------|
|       | U. S. annual average |             | driers' certi- |         | U. S. annual average        |      |
|       | basis                |             | fied paying    |         | Percentage:                 |      |
|       | Percentage of        | Price per   | price, per     | of      | Price per dozen             |      |
|       | parity               | dozen       | dozen          | parity  |                             |      |
|       | Percent              | Cents       | Cents          | Percent | Cents                       |      |
| 1949: | <u>90</u> *          | 46.8        | <u>35</u> *    | 87      |                             | 45.5 |
| 1950: | <u>1/ 75</u>         | <u>37</u> * | <u>2/ 25</u> * |         |                             |      |

\* Underlined figures represent specific goals of the price support programs. Other figures are for comparative purposes only.

1/ Transitional parity, computed with economic indices at October 1949 levels.

2/ January and February only.

Implementation of the 1950 program, through invitation of offers for the sale of dried whole egg, was announced in the December 30, 1949 press release which stipulated the 25 cent per dozen average certified price in the Midwest. The first offers tendered under the 1950 program were considered by the Department on January 11 and 12, and resulted in the purchase of 754 thousand pounds of dried whole egg at a maximum price of 96 cents per pound.

Under the offer and this acceptance plan processors make weekly offers of the quantities of dried egg that they wish to sell to the Government under the specifications of the program, and the processors indicate with each offer the price per pound of dried egg at which they are willing to make the sale. Acceptance is made by the Government of only those offers whose prices are deemed satisfactory in terms of the needs of the price support program.

The basic quality specifications under which dried egg will be bought in 1950 have been made more stringent than the basic specifications under which previous purchases were made. The changes which probably will have the greatest effects on processors' costs are those which raise the solids content of dried egg, and those which limit the blending of powder of various palatability scores. If taken on a straight percentage basis, costs would seem to be increased by about a cent per pound in shifting from the previous standard of 95 percent total solids, to the 96 percent standard which applies for 1950, and probably by as much more on account of the limitations on blending.

Chicken Prices Low; Storage Stocks Near Record,  
Current Broiler Production and Placements Continue High

On a U. S. average basis, chicken prices at the end of the year 1949 were at their lowest level in almost 7 years. The price received by farmers in December, 22.3 cents per pound, compares with an average

of 26.5 cents for the year 1949. The annual average was equivalent to 96 percent of parity. The mandatory price support level for the year was 90 percent of parity. For the last 6 months of 1949, however, prices averaged 5.4 cents per pound less than the average of the first six months. Although large-scale marketings of farm chickens are past for this season, poultry meat supplies will continue ample through the foreseeable future. The seasonally moderate size of the prospective fresh supply of farm chickens for the next few months is to some extent offset by large storage stocks of frozen poultry and by the expected continuation of large broiler marketings. The relatively low price of pork also tends to hold down chicken prices, since pork competes at the retail level with chicken.

Cold storage holdings of poultry (exclusive of turkeys and ducks) were about 50 percent larger on January 1, 1950 than they were a year before. Current commercial holdings, 160 million pounds, are larger than comparable January 1 holdings for any recent years except 1942 and 1944-48. Some of these were years of meat scarcity and unusual patterns of poultry storage.

Marketings of broilers from specialized producing areas are currently being made from chick placements 3 months past. In October, for 7 areas combined, those placements were higher than in any of the 4 months preceding, or in any of the months since. The 7-area decline in placements from October was only about 7 percent in November, and 10 percent in December. Broiler supplies through the next three months will be in proportion to these placements. As a result prices are not likely to be restored to the average 1949 level, which in the Del-Mar-Va area was 27.4 cents per pound. Recent Del-Mar-Va prices, 18.5 cents per pound for the week ending January 5, have been below the lowest levels of 1949, and probably at the lowest levels since before the war.

A further extension of the prospective broiler supplies can be gauged by the number of eggs set in incubators in the 7 specialized areas. In the last two weeks for which such reports are available (weeks ending December 31 and January 7), settings were 10 percent lower than the October 1949 average.

These considerations regarding broiler chick placements and egg settings govern prospective broiler meat supplies through about April. Beginning in about that month, marketings (mostly hens) of farm chickens usually rise from the low levels of the earlier months. During the indicated months and thereafter until the end of the year, monthly marketings of farm chickens can be expected to be at least 5 percent of the annual total, so a steady continuation of ample chicken meat supplies seems virtually assured for every month of 1950. From month to month, the composition of this fresh supply will show smaller proportions of young farm chickens than was the pattern in 1949, and larger proportions of hens, but the aggregate supply, including commercial broilers, will probably support a per capita consumption of chicken meat nearly as large as in 1949.

Table 6.- Chicks placed on farms in specified commercial broiler areas, and broiler prices and broiler-feed price ratio in the Del-Mar-Va. area, by weeks, 1949\*

| Week<br>ending      | Placements of chicks |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           | Broiler  | Broiler- |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|---------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
|                     | East                 | Del-Mar- | Shenandoah | Chatham- | North  | W. W.   | Texas    | Total   | Cumulative | price     | feed     |          |
|                     | Conn.                | Va.      | Valley     | Wilkes,  | N.C.   | Georgia | Arkansas |         | total      | per pound | ratio    |          |
|                     | 1,000                | 1,000    | 1,000      | 1,000    | 1,000  | 1,000   | 1,000    | 1,000   | 1,000      | Cents     | Lb. feed |          |
| January             |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 1:                  | 208                  | 2,709    | 552        | 321      | 1,014  | 645     | 478      | 5,927   | 5,927      | 32.7      | 7.0      |          |
| 8:                  | 193                  | 3,117    | 605        | 351      | 1,046  | 716     | 476      | 6,504   | 12,431     | 30.3      | 6.5      |          |
| 15:                 | 240                  | 3,271    | 519        | 371      | 1,035  | 753     | 477      | 6,666   | 19,097     | 31.6      | 6.7      |          |
| 22:                 | 216                  | 2,921    | 546        | 364      | 980    | 674     | 465      | 6,166   | 25,263     | 30.6      | 6.5      |          |
| 29:                 | 241                  | 2,975    | 590        | 381      | 1,080  | 653     | 497      | 6,417   | 31,680     | 28.9      | 6.2      |          |
| February            |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 5:                  | 289                  | 2,744    | 661        | 382      | 990    | 675     | 444      | 6,185   | 37,865     | 29.8      | 6.5      |          |
| 12:                 | 268                  | 2,967    | 686        | 399      | 1,029  | 644     | 522      | 6,515   | 44,380     | 29.9      | 6.5      |          |
| 19:                 | 343                  | 3,029    | 720        | 393      | 1,086  | 637     | 561      | 6,769   | 51,149     | 28.0      | 6.1      |          |
| 26:                 | 319                  | 3,010    | 744        | 428      | 1,074  | 632     | 461      | 6,668   | 57,817     | 28.8      | 6.2      |          |
| March               |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 5:                  | 327                  | 2,944    | 762        | 422      | 1,105  | 664     | 559      | 6,783   | 64,600     | 29.4      | 6.4      |          |
| 12:                 | 232                  | 2,986    | 814        | 384      | 1,118  | 699     | 580      | 6,813   | 71,413     | 29.6      | 6.5      |          |
| 19:                 | 246                  | 3,053    | 841        | 419      | 1,027  | 703     | 667      | 6,956   | 78,369     | 29.8      | 6.5      |          |
| 26:                 | 229                  | 3,022    | 846        | 434      | 1,067  | 777     | 656      | 7,031   | 85,400     | 30.4      | 6.6      |          |
| April               |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 2:                  | 252                  | 3,020    | 873        | 432      | 1,031  | 814     | 677      | 7,099   | 92,499     | 30.2      | 6.7      |          |
| 9:                  | 230                  | 2,927    | 861        | 445      | 1,093  | 800     | 724      | 7,080   | 99,579     | 29.5      | 6.3      |          |
| 16:                 | 263                  | 2,870    | 872        | 421      | 1,065  | 838     | 718      | 7,047   | 106,626    | 29.6      | 6.2      |          |
| 23:                 | 256                  | 2,849    | 824        | 413      | 1,058  | 814     | 724      | 6,938   | 113,564    | 27.3      | 5.8      |          |
| 30:                 | 237                  | 2,782    | 836        | 410      | 1,088  | 821     | 688      | 6,862   | 120,426    | 28.4      | 6.0      |          |
| May                 |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 7:                  | 258                  | 2,904    | 812        | 385      | 1,215  | 789     | 671      | 7,034   | 127,460    | 26.1      | 5.5      |          |
| 14:                 | 260                  | 2,987    | 785        | 384      | 1,061  | 722     | 742      | 6,941   | 134,401    | 25.0      | 5.3      |          |
| 21:                 | 236                  | 2,988    | 820        | 382      | 981    | 678     | 651      | 6,736   | 141,137    | 24.9      | 5.2      |          |
| 28:                 | 195                  | 3,004    | 753        | 379      | 953    | 686     | 685      | 6,655   | 147,792    | 25.4      | 5.4      |          |
| June                |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 4:                  | 236                  | 3,156    | 712        | 387      | 983    | 686     | 626      | 6,786   | 154,578    | 24.2      | 5.1      |          |
| 11:                 | 174                  | 3,032    | 711        | 381      | 959    | 618     | 576      | 6,451   | 161,029    | 23.8      | 5.7      |          |
| 18:                 | 228                  | 2,912    | 690        | 395      | 922    | 642     | 540      | 6,329   | 167,358    | 22.8      | 4.8      |          |
| 25:                 | 193                  | 2,659    | 633        | 377      | 887    | 608     | 538      | 5,895   | 173,253    | 20.4      | 4.4      |          |
| July                |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 2:                  | 120                  | 2,578    | 656        | 344      | 850    | 637     | 554      | 5,739   | 178,992    | 22.4      | 4.9      |          |
| 9:                  | 115                  | 2,291    | 606        | 333      | 810    | 595     | 572      | 5,322   | 184,314    | 23.8      | 5.0      |          |
| 16:                 | 120                  | 1,937    | 554        | 328      | 769    | 624     | 589      | 4,921   | 189,235    | 29.3      | 6.3      |          |
| 23:                 | 47                   | 1,705    | 509        | 311      | 791    | 519     | 501      | 4,383   | 193,618    | 28.9      | 6.0      |          |
| 30:                 | 88                   | 1,923    | 489        | 280      | 680    | 449     | 476      | 4,385   | 198,003    | 29.5      | 6.2      |          |
| August              |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 6:                  | 96                   | 2,096    | 486        | 304      | 634    | 420     | 401      | 4,437   | 202,440    | 29.0      | 6.0      |          |
| 13:                 | 113                  | 2,192    | 508        | 290      | 643    | 461     | 414      | 4,621   | 207,061    | 29.6      | 6.1      |          |
| 20:                 | 195                  | 2,214    | 474        | 286      | 714    | 493     | 403      | 4,779   | 211,840    | 30.2      | 6.2      |          |
| 27:                 | 162                  | 2,140    | 402        | 235      | 716    | 474     | 394      | 4,523   | 216,363    | 31.3      | 6.5      |          |
| September           |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 3:                  | 163                  | 2,142    | 368        | 247      | 626    | 454     | 453      | 4,453   | 220,816    | 30.3      | 6.2      |          |
| 10:                 | 130                  | 2,273    | 394        | 239      | 734    | 448     | 433      | 4,651   | 225,467    | 28.7      | 5.9      |          |
| 17:                 | 171                  | 2,587    | 465        | 284      | 756    | 506     | 417      | 5,186   | 230,653    | 29.2      | 6.1      |          |
| 24:                 | 183                  | 2,730    | 494        | 280      | 852    | 479     | 435      | 5,453   | 236,106    | 27.6      | 5.8      |          |
| October             |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 1:                  | 170                  | 3,020    | 542        | 291      | 915    | 473     | 403      | 5,814   | 241,920    | 25.0      | 5.3      |          |
| 8:                  | 205                  | 3,140    | 630        | 295      | 987    | 570     | 468      | 6,295   | 248,215    | 25.9      | 5.6      |          |
| 15:                 | 188                  | 3,103    | 688        | 347      | 1,104  | 563     | 442      | 6,435   | 254,650    | 26.4      | 5.6      |          |
| 22:                 | 191                  | 3,227    | 685        | 345      | 1,151  | 622     | 469      | 6,690   | 261,340    | 24.8      | 5.3      |          |
| 29:                 | 171                  | 3,115    | 699        | 336      | 1,150  | 663     | 492      | 6,626   | 267,966    | 26.0      | 5.7      |          |
| November            |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 5:                  | 133                  | 3,029    | 837        | 330      | 1,207  | 671     | 548      | 6,755   | 274,721    | 26.0      | 5.6      |          |
| 12:                 | 73                   | 2,681    | 656        | 363      | 1,230  | 606     | 538      | 6,147   | 280,868    | 26.4      | 5.8      |          |
| 19:                 | 71                   | 2,528    | 603        | 339      | 1,254  | 584     | 530      | 5,909   | 286,777    | 27.0      | 6.0      |          |
| 26:                 | 157                  | 2,595    | 565        | 326      | 1,218  | 568     | 511      | 5,940   | 292,717    | 26.4      | 5.9      |          |
| December            |                      |          |            |          |        |         |          |         |            |           |          |          |
| 3:                  | 122                  | 2,652    | 545        | 299      | 1,141  | 664     | 566      | 5,989   | 298,706    | 26.2      | 5.8      |          |
| 10:                 | 161                  | 2,757    | 620        | 273      | 1,088  | 640     | 532      | 6,071   | 304,777    | 23.6      | 5.1      |          |
| 17:                 | 181                  | 3,099    | 543        | 259      | 1,039  | 685     | 511      | 6,317   | 311,094    | 23.6      | 5.1      |          |
| 24:                 | 133                  | 2,515    | 503        | 150      | 987    | 665     | 563      | 5,516   | 316,610    | N.A.      | N.A.     |          |
| 31:                 | 185                  | 2,557    | 503        | 197      | 922    | 701     | 528      | 5,593   | 322,203    | 18.5      | 4.1      |          |
| Total or<br>average | 10,213               | 145,664  | 34,092     | 18,151   | 51,915 | 33,622  | 28,546   | 322,203 |            | 1/ 27.4   | 1/ 5.9   |          |

1/ One week not available.

\* Subject to revision.

Turkey Sales at Christmas Less than Expected;  
11 Million Pounds Sold to Government

Pre-Christmas wholesale prices of turkey were slightly higher than prices before the Thanksgiving holiday, and farm prices of turkey in mid-December were almost a cent higher than a month earlier. In the wholesale market, however, these price gains were lost when Christmas sales of turkey fell short of trade expectations. Accordingly, large offerings were made to the Government for price support.

Government acceptances of turkey from the December 28 offers were 11 million pounds. This compares with 0.8 million pounds in the entire preceding period in which the 1949 program was active, beginning in August. The 11.8 million pounds purchased to date are equivalent to about 1 1/2 percent of the 1949 turkey crop.

The December 28 1949, offering date was the last one for 1949 turkeys until July 1950, when offers will again be considered for birds which were processed in 1949. The opportunity for July sales was established in order to provide price insurance to storers of turkey, and thereby to encourage storage.

Present estimates place the 1949 turkey crop at 41.1 million birds, 29 percent larger than the year before. So far, monthly prices to producers for birds from this crop have averaged about one-fourth lower than last year. Therefore, the gross returns to farmers for the two crops-1948 and 1949-may turn out to be very nearly the same, despite the difference in the number of birds.

A BAE report on farmers' intentions regarding turkeys to be raised in 1950 indicates a very small increase- about 1 percent- over the 1949 output. If growers' present intentions are borne out, the number of turkeys raised in 1950 will be 41.9 million, compared with 41.1 million in 1949. Intended decreases in the South Central and Western States almost offset intended increases in all other areas of the country.

Table 7.- Farm egg production per person<sup>1/</sup> U.S. and regions, 1940-48

| Year | N. Atl. | E. N. C. | W. N. C. | S. Atl. | S. C.  | West   | U. S.  |
|------|---------|----------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|      | Number  | Number   | Number   | Number  | Number | Number | Number |
| 1940 | 175     | 322      | 771      | 192     | 277    | 309    | 301    |
| 1941 | 184     | 339      | 835      | 187     | 297    | 300    | 315    |
| 1942 | 206     | 377      | 1,044    | 208     | 352    | 319    | 363    |
| 1943 | 236     | 415      | 1,231    | 229     | 411    | 336    | 407    |
| 1944 | 262     | 446      | 1,339    | 248     | 429    | 361    | 441    |
| 1945 | 243     | 432      | 1,321    | 248     | 406    | 320    | 353    |
| 1946 | 231     | 400      | 1,251    | 238     | 366    | 306    | 397    |
| 1947 | 237     | 391      | 1,208    | 231     | 343    | 295    | 385    |
| 1948 | 236     | 388      | 1,190    | 220     | 329    | 290    | 378    |
| 1949 | 241     | 387      | 1,165    | 231     | 327    | 295    | 378    |

<sup>1/</sup> Exclusive of non-farm production, which for the U. S. as a whole is assumed to be equal to 10 percent of farm production.

Table 8.- Hens and pullets on farms January 1 and annual rate of lay, by regions, 1939 to date

| Year | Hens and pullets on farms |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|      | N. Atl.                   | E. N. C.    | W. N. C.    | S. Atl.     | S. C.       | West        | U. S.       |
|      | <u>Mil.</u>               | <u>Mil.</u> | <u>Mil.</u> | <u>Mil.</u> | <u>Mil.</u> | <u>Mil.</u> | <u>Mil.</u> |
| 1939 | 46                        | 78          | 103         | 37          | 78          | 34          | 377         |
| 1940 | 49                        | 80          | 108         | 38          | 81          | 36          | 393         |
| 1941 | 47                        | 79          | 107         | 37          | 77          | 35          | 381         |
| 1942 | 52                        | 85          | 123         | 40          | 89          | 39          | 428         |
| 1943 | 61                        | 93          | 145         | 45          | 103         | 42          | 489         |
| 1944 | 67                        | 100         | 153         | 50          | 110         | 46          | 524         |
| 1945 | 63                        | 90          | 139         | 46          | 96          | 40          | 474         |
| 1946 | 65                        | 92          | 137         | 46          | 95          | 41          | 474         |
| 1947 | 60                        | 85          | 128         | 43          | 84          | 38          | 436         |
| 1948 | 61                        | 83          | 123         | 40          | 81          | 38          | 426         |
| 1949 | 61                        | 80          | 118         | 40          | 76          | 39          | 413         |
| 1950 | 68                        | 86          | 123         | 41          | 80          | 42          | 439         |

| Year | Rate of Lay   |               |               |               |               |               |               |
|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|      | Number        | Number        | Number        | Number        | Number        | Number        | Number        |
|      | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Number</u> |
| 1939 | 130           | 109           | 98            | 91            | 86            | 123           | 103           |
| 1940 | 129           | 107           | 96            | 92            | 82            | 120           | 101           |
| 1941 | 139           | 115           | 96            | 92            | 82            | 126           | 110           |
| 1942 | 141           | 119           | 106           | 94            | 93            | 125           | 114           |
| 1943 | 135           | 117           | 113           | 98            | 95            | 128           | 112           |
| 1944 | 135           | 119           | 110           | 97            | 94            | 128           | 112           |
| 1945 | 133           | 126           | 112           | 94            | 93            | 133           | 118           |
| 1946 | 133           | 125           | 121           | 100           | 94            | 131           | 117           |
| 1947 | 152           | 135           | 130           | 105           | 101           | 141           | 127           |
| 1948 | 149           | 138           | 133           | 108           | 103           | 144           | 129           |

Table No. 9 - Purchases of dried eggs for price support 1948 by contract dates and scheduled months of delivery

| Week in which contract was awarded | May          | June         | July         | Aug.         | Sept.        | Oct.         | Nov.         | Dec.         | Jan. 1949    | Total weekly purchases | Cumulative purchases |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|                                    | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds           | 1,000 pounds         |
| May 15 <sup>2/</sup>               | 364          | 250          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 614                    | 614                  |
| 22                                 | 579          | 1,584        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,163                  | 2,777                |
| 29                                 |              | 1,172        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,172                  | 3,949                |
| June 5                             |              | 1,774        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,774                  | 5,723                |
| 12                                 |              | 861          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 861                    | 6,584                |
| 19                                 |              | 812          | 1,370        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,182                  | 8,766                |
| 26                                 |              |              | 1,376        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,376                  | 10,142               |
| July 3                             |              |              | 2,098        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,098                  | 12,240               |
| 10                                 |              |              | 1,602        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,602                  | 13,842               |
| 17                                 |              |              | 1,204        | 529          |              |              |              |              |              | 1,733                  | 15,575               |
| 24                                 |              |              | 192          | 2,159        |              |              |              |              |              | 2,351                  | 17,926               |
| 31                                 |              |              |              | 1,768        |              |              |              |              |              | 1,768                  | 19,694               |
| Aug. 7                             |              |              |              | 1,183        | 20           |              |              |              |              | 1,203                  | 20,897               |
| 14                                 |              |              |              | 334          | 251          |              |              |              |              | 585                    | 21,482               |
| 21                                 |              |              |              | 206          | 446          |              |              |              |              | 652                    | 22,134               |
| 28                                 |              |              |              |              | 677          |              |              |              |              | 677                    | 22,811               |
| Sept. 4                            |              |              |              |              | 560          |              |              |              |              | 560                    | 23,371               |
| 11                                 |              |              |              |              | 974          |              |              |              |              | 974                    | 24,345               |
| 18                                 |              |              |              |              | 366          | 426          |              |              |              | 792                    | 25,137               |
| 25                                 |              |              |              |              |              | 453          |              |              |              | 453                    | 25,590               |
| Oct. 2                             |              |              |              |              |              | 397          |              |              |              | 397                    | 25,987               |
| 9                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 399          |              |              |              | 399                    | 26,386               |
| 16                                 |              |              |              |              |              | 305          |              |              |              | 305                    | 26,691               |
| 23                                 |              |              |              |              |              | 72           | 77           |              |              | 149                    | 26,840               |
| 30                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              | 186          |              |              | 186                    | 27,026               |
| Nov. 7                             |              |              |              |              |              |              | 123          | 79           |              | 202                    | 27,228               |
| 14                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              | 55           | 40           |              | 95                     | 27,323               |
| 21                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              | 20           | 106          |              | 126                    | 27,449               |
| 28                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 108          |              | 108                    | 27,557               |
| Dec. 4                             |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 156          |              | 156                    | 27,713               |
| 11                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 193          |              | 193                    | 27,906               |
| 18                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 79           |              | 79                     | 27,985               |
| 25                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 183          | 183                    | 28,168               |
| 31                                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 272          | 272                    | 28,441               |
| Total                              | 943          | 6,454        | 7,843        | 6,179        | 3,294        | 2,051        | 461          | 761          | 455          | 28,441                 |                      |

<sup>1/</sup> Net after contract cancellations.<sup>2/</sup> First award for 1948.

Table 10.- Purchases of dried egg for price support by contract dates and scheduled months of delivery, 1949

| Week in which contract was awarded | Net purchases 1/ by scheduled months of delivery |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | Total        | Cumulative                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
|                                    | Jan.                                             | Feb.         | Mar.         | Apr.         | May          | June         | July         | Aug.         | Sept.        | Oct.         | Nov.         | Dec.         | pur-chases   | total of weekly purchases |
|                                    | 1,000 pounds                                     | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds              |
| Jan. 8                             | 252                                              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 252          | 252                       |
| 15                                 | 580                                              | 20           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 600          | 852                       |
| 22                                 | 445                                              | 24           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 469          | 1,321                     |
| 29                                 |                                                  | 1,833        | 24           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,857        | 3,178                     |
| Feb. 5                             |                                                  | 828          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 828          | 4,006                     |
| 12                                 |                                                  | 1,084        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,084        | 5,090                     |
| 19                                 |                                                  | 1,016        | 1,091        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,107        | 7,197                     |
| 26                                 |                                                  |              | 2,304        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,304        | 9,501                     |
| Mar. 5                             |                                                  |              | 2,305        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,305        | 11,806                    |
| 12                                 |                                                  |              | 3,244        | 626          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 3,870        | 15,676                    |
| 19                                 |                                                  |              | 1,184        | 2,890        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 4,074        | 19,750                    |
| 26                                 |                                                  |              | 24           | 4,598        | 25           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 4,647        | 24,397                    |
| Apr. 2                             |                                                  |              |              | 3,835        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 3,835        | 28,232                    |
| 9                                  |                                                  |              |              | 1,864        | 1,046        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,910        | 31,142                    |
| 16                                 |                                                  |              |              | 942          | 1,007        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,949        | 33,091                    |
| 23                                 |                                                  |              |              | 354          | 2,393        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,747        | 35,838                    |
| 30                                 |                                                  |              |              |              | 1,418        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,418        | 37,256                    |
| May 7                              |                                                  |              |              |              | 689          | 48           |              |              |              |              |              |              | 737          | 37,993                    |
| 14                                 |                                                  |              |              |              | 1,314        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,314        | 39,307                    |
| 21                                 |                                                  |              |              |              | 442          | 1,191        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,633        | 40,940                    |
| 28                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              | 1,453        |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,453        | 42,393                    |
| June 4                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              | 1,753        | 24           |              |              |              |              |              | 1,777        | 44,170                    |
| 11                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              | 1,576        | 64           |              |              |              |              |              | 1,640        | 45,810                    |
| 18                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              | 601          | 710          |              |              |              |              |              | 1,311        | 47,121                    |
| 25                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 1,456        |              |              |              |              |              | 1,456        | 48,577                    |
| July 2                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 1,647        |              |              |              |              |              | 1,647        | 50,224                    |
| 9                                  |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 1,797        | 20           |              |              |              |              | 1,817        | 52,041                    |
| 16                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 704          | 486          |              |              |              |              | 1,190        | 53,231                    |
| 23                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              | 121          | 967          |              |              |              |              | 1,088        | 54,319                    |
| 30                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 949          |              |              |              |              | 949          | 55,268                    |
| Aug. 6                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 424          |              |              |              |              | 424          | 55,692                    |
| 13                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 566          | 273          |              |              |              | 839          | 56,531                    |
| 20                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 262          | 386          |              |              |              | 648          | 57,179                    |
| 27                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 499          |              |              |              | 499          | 57,678                    |
| Sept. 3                            |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 569          |              |              |              | 569          | 58,247                    |
| 10                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 165          |              |              |              | 165          | 58,412                    |
| 17                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 115          | 21           |              |              | 136          | 58,548                    |
| 24                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 172          |              |              | 172          | 58,720                    |
| Oct. 1                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 123          |              |              | 123          | 58,843                    |
| 8                                  |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 130          |              |              | 130          | 58,973                    |
| 15                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 48           |              |              | 48           | 59,021                    |
| 22                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 28           |              |              | 155          | 59,176                    |
| 29                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 198          | 21           |              | 219          | 59,395                    |
| Nov. 5                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 357          |              | 357          | 59,752                    |
| 12                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 198          | 80           | 278          | 60,030                    |
| 19                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 82           | 128          | 210          | 60,240                    |
| 26                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 372          | 372          | 60,612                    |
| Dec. 3                             |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 661          | 661          | 61,273                    |
| 10                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2,851        | 2,851        | 64,124                    |
| 17                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 3,496        | 3,496        | 67,620                    |
| 24                                 |                                                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1,188        | 1,188        | 68,808                    |
| Total                              | 1,277                                            | 4,805        | 10,175       | 15,110       | 8,335        | 6,622        | 6,523        | 3,673        | 2,008        | 522          | 962          | 8,797        | 68,808       |                           |

1/ Net after contract cancellations.

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